



**For Immediate Release**  
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**STATE HONORS 89 MASSACHUSETTS COMMUNITIES  
WITH ANNUAL TREE CITY USA AWARDS**

*3 Utility Companies Presented with Tree Line USA Awards*

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) today presented 2008 Tree City USA Awards to 89 Massachusetts communities, a record number of participants for Massachusetts and the highest number of participating communities in the New England/New York region this year. The ceremony was held at Elm Bank Reservation to honor the Town of Wellesley as the first community in the Commonwealth to celebrate a 25th Year Tree City USA Benchmark Award.

“DCR is very proud of the towns and cities across the Commonwealth that have devoted so many resources to planting and caring for their trees,” said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr., who presented the awards. “And it is a special honor to lead the region in the number of communities receiving these awards.”

The awards are sponsored by the National Arbor Day foundation to honor communities that are committed to urban forestry. To receive designation as an official Tree City, municipalities must meet four criteria: They must establish a department devoted to tree care, spend at least \$2 per capita per year on urban forestry, enforce laws protecting public trees, and host an Arbor Day celebration.

Communities receiving Tree City USA Awards, and number of years participating, are:

Amesbury (12), Amherst (21), Andover (9), Arlington (6), Barnstable (11), Bedford (8), Belmont (23), Beverly (7), Billerica (4), Boston (12), Boxford (3), Cambridge (16), Chelsea (4), Dalton (7), Danvers (21), Duxbury (17), Fall River (3), Falmouth (11), Framingham (17), Gloucester (16), Grafton (8), Greenfield (6), Groton (12), Hanscom AFB (21), Haverhill (12), Hingham (22), Holyoke (7), Ipswich (8), Lanesborough (3), Lawrence (6), Lexington (19), Longmeadow (7), Lowell (11), Ludlow (2), Lynn (18), Marblehead (9), Marion (11), Marshfield (13), Milton (2), Nantucket (8), Needham (13), New Bedford (8), Newburyport (12), Newton (19), North Adams (12), Northampton (3), Peabody (12), Petersham (4), Pittsfield (3), Plymouth (19), Plympton (2), Reading (23), Salem (7), Sandwich (7), Saugus (9), Scituate (9), Sherborn (8), Somerville (13), Southampton (3), Springfield (22), Stoneham (8), Sturbridge (19), Sutton (8), Swampscott (17), Wakefield (7), Waltham (12), Watertown

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(17), West Bridgewater (14), Westfield (4), Westover ARB (11), Weymouth (8), Winthrop (2), Woburn (3), Worcester (22).

In addition, Growth Awards, recognizing environmental improvement and encouraging higher levels of tree care, were awarded to Cambridge, Lawrence, New Bedford, Springfield, Wakefield, Wellesley, Winthrop, and Worcester. Twentieth Year Tree City USA Benchmark Awards were presented to Brookline, Easton, Manchester, and West Springfield. Other Benchmark Awards were presented to Chicopee (15 years); Brockton, Leominster, Medfield, Melrose, and Orleans (10 years); and, Weston (5 years). Three first-time Tree City USA communities were also honored: Bernardston, Hadley, and Hopkinton.

Three Massachusetts utility companies – NSTAR, Chicopee Electric Light, and National Grid – received 2008 Tree Line USA Awards for meeting standards in quality tree care, ongoing worker training, and tree-planting and educational programs. Tree Line USA awards recognize public and private utilities across the nation that demonstrate practices to protect and enhance urban forests.

The Tree City USA and Tree Line USA awards programs are sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation, in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters, and are administered by DCR's Urban and Community Forestry Program. Roche Bros. supermarkets cosponsored today's event and provided lunch.

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*The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, and dams, in addition to 278 bridges and miles of roadways. Led by Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr., the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr). Contact us at [mass.parks@state.ma.us](mailto:mass.parks@state.ma.us).*